

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 110

To express the sense of Congress that the President convene a White House Conference on Tourism to recognize travel and tourism in America as a major economic force, providing tax revenue for thousands of cities, counties, and States, income for hundreds of thousands of business firms, and contributing to the Nation's growth and economic stability.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 1993

Mr. OBERSTAR (for himself, Mr. ROTH, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. BACCHUS of Florida, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BREWSTER, Mr. DE LUGO, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. KOPETSKI, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ, Mr. LANCASTER, Mr. RAVENEL, Mr. ZELIFF, Mr. BEVILL, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. LAROCO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Public Works and Transportation and Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of Congress that the President convene a White House Conference on Tourism to recognize travel and tourism in America as a major economic force, providing tax revenue for thousands of cities, counties, and States, income for hundreds of thousands of business firms, and contributing to the Nation's growth and economic stability.

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) JOB GENERATION.—(A) Travel industry
4 employment has grown by 43 percent in the last 10
5 years representing twice the growth rate for all
6 United States industries.

7 (B) The travel and tourism industry directly
8 employs 6,000,000 people and indirectly creates em-
9 ployment for another 3,000,000 Americans or 1 in
10 every 13 workers.

11 (C) Wage and salary income from tourism was
12 4 times that of the Nation's steel and automobile
13 manufacturing combined in 1991.

14 (2) TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISM
15 INTERDEPENDENCY.—(A) Successful tourism devel-
16 opment requires the linkage of transportation facili-
17 ties with recreational lands, small businesses, and
18 businesses supporting the traveling public, such as
19 intercity bus, rail, and air passenger carriers, cruise
20 ships, dining establishments, hotels, motels, camp-
21 grounds, car rental firms, and other recreation serv-
22 ice providers.

23 (B) For transportation investment initiatives to
24 contribute toward economic development, such initia-
25 tives must be responsive to emerging economic cir-
26 cumstances.

1 (C) Affordability, flexibility, and convenience
2 make automobile travel the most popular mode of
3 transportation for Americans, accounting for ap-
4 proximately 80 percent of all travel in the United
5 States.

6 (D) Establishment of appropriate transpor-
7 tation links from each community to the rest of the
8 Nation is a desirable goal.

9 (E) The recent Federal commitment to scenic
10 byways includes specific enticements to communities
11 which invest in tourism development, successfully
12 linking transportation with historic, scenic, and
13 recreation interests across America.

14 (F) The airline industry has recorded losses for
15 the past 3 years exceeding \$10,000,000,000 result-
16 ing in the lay-offs of over 60,000 employees and
17 causing the loss of thousands of other jobs in indus-
18 tries dependent on aviation.

19 (G) A White House Conference on Tourism
20 could contribute substantially toward a better under-
21 standing of the airline industry's problems and could
22 help airlines resume growth through the expansion
23 of tourism.

24 (3) SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM.—(A) The Sce-
25 nic Byways Program meets many of the needs of

1 recreational and touring Americans, particularly rec-
2 reational drivers, bicyclists, and hikers.

3 (B) The Scenic Byways Program protects the
4 scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, natural and
5 archeological integrity of regional communities, fur-
6 ther enhancing tourism development along these
7 routes.

8 (C) The Scenic Byways Program gives commu-
9 nities the opportunity to invest in economic develop-
10 ment initiatives that promote responsible growth and
11 allow tourists to enjoy both the natural beauty and
12 modern conveniences of travel.

13 (4) NEED FOR LEADERSHIP.—(A) Many com-
14 munities already have the tourism resources with po-
15 tential to improve local economic conditions, but lack
16 the organizational framework to organize, plan, and
17 implement programs to improve local economies.

18 (B) A White House Conference on Tourism
19 would help develop a better informed and active
20 leadership further ensuring the stable and steady
21 growth of tourism.

22 (5) FEDERAL LAND USE AND ECONOMIC DE-
23 VELOPMENT.—(A) The National Park Service, Unit-
24 ed States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Manage-
25 ment, Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation,

1 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau
2 of Indian Affairs maintain more than 626,500,000
3 acres of land, much of which is used for recreational
4 and tourism related activities.

5 (B) 1,259,000,000 visitors spent recreational
6 time on land managed by the Federal Government
7 in 1991.

8 (C) The State park system in the United States
9 recorded 734,000,000 visitors to the more than
10 11,000,000 acres in 4,367 State parks during 1991.

11 (6) SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.—(A)
12 Small businesses account for over 90 percent of the
13 travel and tourism industry.

14 (B) The Small Business Administration's 2
15 rural travel and tourism loan programs in 1992 ex-
16 ceeded \$500,000,000 in loans to assist hotels, camp-
17 grounds, lodging services, amusement services, tour-
18 ist information bureaus, and transportation services.

19 (C) Tourism represents a unique opportunity
20 for small business development in disadvantaged
21 communities to diversify and improve their economic
22 base.

23 (7) INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM.—

24 (A) 42,700,000 foreign visitors spent approximately
25 \$48,800,000,000 at United States travel destina-

1 tions in 1991, making tourism America's number 1
2 export and creating a net trade surplus of
3 \$16,000,000,000.

4 (B) International tourism, the largest American
5 business, accounts for 11 percent of the total United
6 States export of goods and services.

7 (C) The money expended by international visi-
8 tors in the United States in 1990 directly accounted
9 for 870,000 American jobs.

10 (8) AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMIC DE-
11 VELOPMENT.—(A) A task force of Federal agencies
12 is coordinating resources of these agencies to help
13 rural communities expand rural development pro-
14 grams through enhanced tourism.

15 (B) The food service industry provides employ-
16 ment for over 9,000,000 people and is a critical link
17 to tourism trade.

18 (C) The American tourist's spending patterns
19 reveal that dining out accounts for 25 cents of every
20 traveler's dollar and nearly 1/2 of all the sales in
21 America's fine-dining restaurants comes from out-of-
22 town guests.

23 (9) ECO-TOURISM.—(A) The tourism industry
24 has a fundamental obligation to balance environ-
25 mental concerns with the use of natural resources to

1 prevent depletion and degradation of the environ-
2 ment through proper planning and management
3 processes.

4 (B) The President has recommended the cre-
5 ation of new partnerships committed to community
6 service programs to stimulate investment in commu-
7 nities and the rebuilding of our national infrastruc-
8 ture and natural resources.

9 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that (1) the President rec-
11 ognize the influential role rail, bus, air passenger service,
12 highway, and byway investments and other transportation
13 initiatives have in the development of tourism opportuni-
14 ties in the United States by convening a White House
15 Conference on Tourism to address critical issues which
16 highlight the interdependence of transportation and tour-
17 ism, and (2) transportation infrastructure and the Scenic
18 Byways Program are key components of economic develop-
19 ment and should be addressed by the Conference.

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